

Health Risk Behaviors Among High School-Aged Youth
National and Montana Comparisons of Selected Elements
*(with Non-random Data** for Montana Respondents attending Alternative Schools)*

Sources: 2005 U.S. and 2007 Montana Youth Risk Behavior Surveys (OPI)

Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data (percent of students who)	Montana 2007 Alt. School**		Montana 2007 High School		U.S. 2005 High School
Carried a weapon in the past 30 days	25.2		22.1		18.4
Carried a gun in the past 30 days	10.6		7.8		6.5
Carried a weapon on school property in the past 30 days	13.8		9.7		6.5
Did not go to school in the past 30 days because they felt unsafe	6.6		4.2		5.4
Were in a physical fight in the past 12 months	49.7		32.8		30.3
Actually attempted suicide in the past 12 months	16.0		7.9		8.8
Ever smoked a cigarette (lifetime use)	81.2		52.1		54.5
Are "current" smokers (smoked on 1 or more of the previous 30 days)	48.7		20.0		21.2
Ever smoked daily (at least 1 cigarette every day for 30 days)	53.2		12.9		13.8
Are "frequent" smokers (smoked on 20 or more of the previous 30 days)	33.3		8.1		8.8
Are "current" smokeless tobacco users (used chew or smokeless tobacco on 1 or more of the previous 30 days)	17.2		12.9		8.4
Ever had consumed alcohol (lifetime alcohol use)	87.8		77.8		74.1
Are "current" alcohol users (drank alcohol on 1 or more of the previous 30 days)	60.4		46.5		42.8
"Binge" drink (episodic heavy drinking, consuming 5 or more drinks at one occasion in the previous 30 days)	50.2		32.7		26.3
Ever used marijuana (lifetime marijuana use)	72.5		39.1		38.2

Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data (percent of students who)	Montana 2007 Alt. School**		Montana 2007 High School		U.S. 2005 High School
Are "current" marijuana users (used marijuana 1 or more times in the previous 30 days)	46.3		21.0		18.9
Ever used inhalants (lifetime inhalant use)	32.2		16.2		12.2
Ever used methamphetamines (lifetime use)	23.3		4.6		5.9
Ever had sexual intercourse	81.7		45.7		44.8
Are currently sexually active (had sexual intercourse in the past 3 months)	56.4		31.2		33.3
Of those who ever had sex, the percent who used alcohol or drugs before last sexual intercourse	43.6		26.0		22.9
Are attempting to lose weight	45.3		43.6		46.3
Participated in 60 minutes of physical activity* per day on five or more of the past seven days	45.0		44.9		33.9
Watch 3 or more hours of TV on a school night	22.2		22.2		34.7
Used alcohol before age 13	44.6		25.9		24.9
Smoked a cigarette before age 13	53.5		14.7		16.1
Tried marijuana before age 13	33.2		9.5		9.1
Had sexual intercourse before age 13	19.1		5.1		5.8

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Source: 2005 U.S. and 2007 Montana Youth Risk Behavior Surveys (Office of Public Instruction)

The data for Alternative Schools represents the 606 students in alternative schools who participated in the 2007 survey.

* Physical activity is defined as activity that increases your heart rate and makes your breathe hard.

** These data represent the respondents only; it would not be valid to generalize these findings to all students who attend Alternative schools in Montana.